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SENSITIVE
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E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: [PHUM](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [OAS](#) [IAHRC](#) [CA](#)
SUBJECT: CANADIAN INTERIM RESPONSE ON U.S. IAHRC CANDIDATE
SHELTON

REF: STATE 28833

¶1. (SBU) Further to reftel, Canada will decide in the next few weeks which candidate it will support for the Inter-American Human Rights Commission (IAHRC), according to Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade (DFAIT) human rights senior policy advisor Cyndy Nelson. Nelson told acting Pol/C on April 17 that most of the key DFAIT decision makers are currently away on travel related to the Summit of the Americas, as well as follow-on travel in the region with Foreign Minister Lawrence Cannon. She added that DFAIT will begin preparing in earnest for the OAS General Assembly in the next two weeks, including deciding which IAHRC candidate to support.

¶2. (SBU) Nelson was effusive in her praise for Dr. Shelton, saying that Canada "looked very favorably on her candidacy." She added that her credentials are "very impressive with lots of professional and academic experience" in the subject matter and region. She commented as well that it was good to see the U.S. nominate a woman for the first time for the IAHRC. Nelson promised to provide an official reply by the end of April, if not sooner.

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